

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL

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Of America

Vol. XV

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No. 5



FIG. 30. Mrs. Glen Wickliff's prize-winning
succulent arrangement—see next page.
Photo by Ray Naylor.



CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL

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CACTUS ARRANGEMENT TOPS IOWA
HOLIDAY SHOW

The Des Moines Garden Club exhibited at the Iowa State Federated Garden Club's Holiday Show at Ames, Iowa, during November, 1942. Mrs. Glen Wickliff entered an exhibit of a cactus arrangement which won the sweepstakes for the Des Moines Garden Club. This was a happy event for the members of the Des Moines Cactus Society in view of the fact that one of their members could bring to the front the idea that cactus does have a place in flower arrangements. The show was primarily for the purpose of exhibiting Christmas material and among the one hundred or more entries were all types of holiday arrangements such as formal tables, New Year's tables, centerpieces, wreaths, swags, gift displays, pine arrangements, dried materials, vegetables, charm strings, fruits, corsages, candlesticks, and various other exhibits.

The fact that cactus overshadowed all these exhibits was very pleasing to the Society. We have always seen the beauty in cacti and when three state judges who were not essentially interested in cacti, picked this arrangement as the most outstanding display, we felt that our efforts to bring cactus quality to the attention of others had been substantiated. Not only did this exhibit win the blue prize in the general class and the sweepstakes or tri-colored ribbon for the best in the show, but it also took the purple ribbon award presented by the National Federated Garden Clubs of New York, given for the most outstanding display in the entire show.

The arrangement depicted a desert picture wherein a Mexican figure of a girl with an accordion emerged from a tall clump of Yucca leaves between large pads of cactus. The pads carried out the motion of the girl giving rhythm to the picture. A covering of crumbly brown paper finished the desert atmosphere which was dotted with pieces of petrified wood. The perfect condition of the *Opuntia* pads with their blue green color and strong brown spines assisted in making the errorless arrangement. Another feature of this display was the fact that the pads remained in excellent condition as did the other material throughout the show, which is not often the case in many flower arrangements. Again we feel that cactus can be used to a great advantage when it comes to exhibiting in various flower shows.

Mrs. Wickliff has made similar arrangements at other shows winning sweepstakes in a local flower show and a ribbon in a flower recital. She used a Mexican man in one instance with *Opuntia* pads bearing full blooming yellow flowers. These flowers were merely buds when the arrangement was entered but by

the time the judges came to make their choice, the buds very obligingly opened in full bloom and emitted a grand fragrance thus detracting from the ugly spines which so often scares some observers when they see cactus. *Opuntia* pads with their luscious red fruit was used in another exhibit creating an interest to the variety which may be obtained in displaying cacti.

Eastern floral publications have requested pictures of this arrangement feeling that this is something new in the art of flower arrangement. It is rather unusual that Iowa should produce such an exhibit. This should be of interest to many other cactus societies throughout the country to urge their members to promote cacti and succulents in their flower shows. There are hundreds of ideas created by the peculiar shapes of cacti and the desert atmosphere is easily obtained with the use of an attractive figurine. The photograph on this cover is merely a suggestion and the Des Moines Cactus Society invites all cactus enthusiasts to take heart and come forward with similar ideas thus bringing to the public the beauty that really lies in the desert plantlife.

MARY R. NAYLOR.

EPIPHYLLUM BOOK

The Abbey Garden Press is preparing a handbook on Epiphyllums and their culture. This booklet will be inexpensive so that it can be distributed in large quantities. It will be nonpartisan so that all dealers should cooperate in its distribution. All growers and dealers who will cooperate in the preparation or checking of the copy should communicate with your JOURNAL editor at once—otherwise some valuable information may be omitted.

Jot down your experiences or suggestions now and we will rewrite them for you. Beginners and enthusiasts should outline the subject or points they would like to see covered. How many types of flowers are there (not minute variations)? Which varieties would you recommend for an average collection? We are especially anxious to have eastern Affiliates ferret out cultural information and problems—will you please report promptly?

SCOTT E. HASELTON.

DESERT COTTAGE

One of our members offers free rent to a couple who would like to retire to an ideal desert spot in a new townsite in the Little Borongo Valley, San Diego County, in exchange for "the doing a little watering and in keeping an eye on things." If interested, address the JOURNAL, Box 101, Pasadena, Calif.

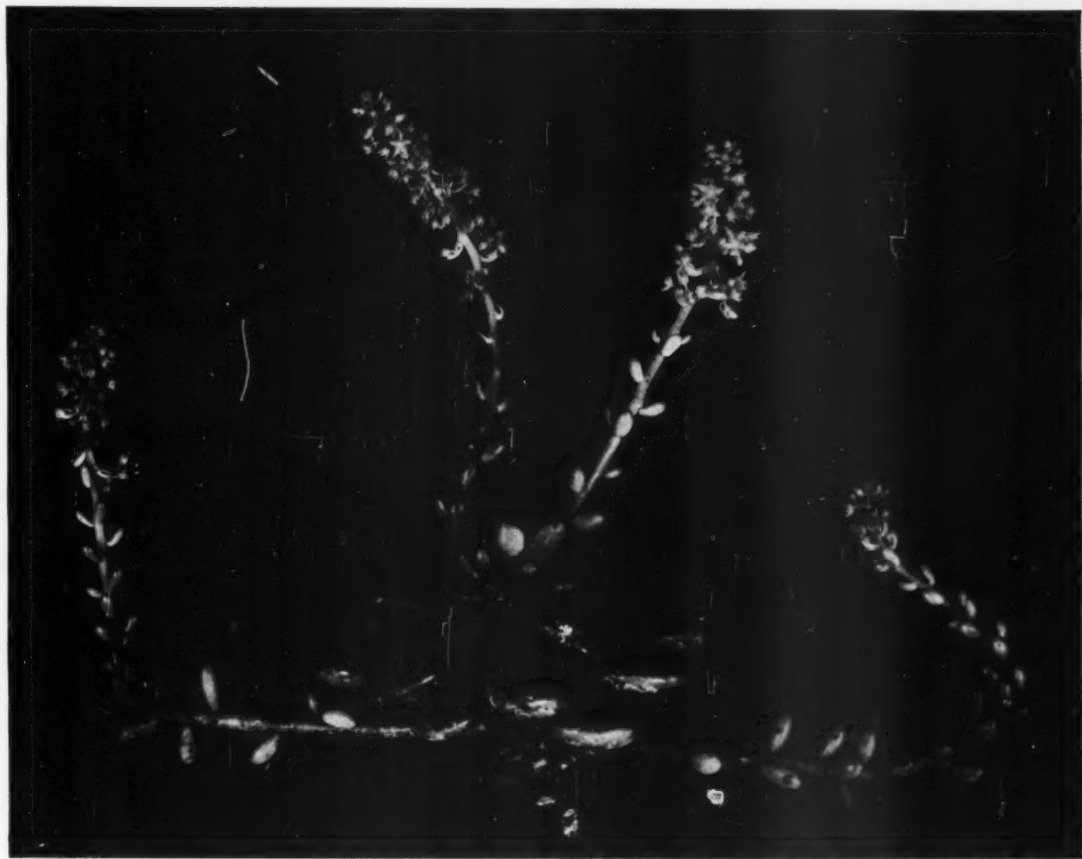


FIG. 31. *Sedum Cremnophila* cultivated at Ithaca, N. Y. Photo by W. R. Fisher.

A New Name for Rose's *Sedum nutans*

By R. T. CLAUSEN

The homonym rule again takes toll of a familiar name. R. V. Moran recently brought to my attention the publication of a *Sedum nutans* by Haworth, in 1821, on page 29 of his *Revisioes Plantarum Succulentarum*. The name is almost a *nomen nudum*, since there is no real description, though there is indication that the flowers are yellow and nodding, also that the species resembles *Sedum anopetalum*. My guess is that Haworth was referring to some variation of either *S. reflexum* or *S. rupestre* of Linnaeus, but this is subject to further investigation. In any case, we can be sure that Haworth did not have the same plant that Dr. Rose described from southern Mexico, also that we can not con-

tinue to use *S. nutans* as a name for the Mexican species. For that I now propose the name *Sedum Cremnophila* nom. nov. Synonyms are *Sedum nutans* Rose, Bull. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 3:43 (1903) and *Creemnophila nutans* Rose, No. Am. Flora 22:56 (1905).

Considered by itself, *Sedum Cremnophila* is very unlike most northern *Sedums*. The leaves are very thick and borne in a rosette with the floral stems arising either in their axils or even below the rosette in the axils of leaves which have fallen. The inflorescence is a narrow cymose-panicle, not a true cyme, but the individual flowers are typical of *Sedum* with the petals spreading and distinct to the base. Since

several undoubted Sedums such as *S. pachyphyl- lum*, *S. Treleasei*, and *S. Adolphii* likewise have axillary floral stems, *S. Crennophila* is not unique among Mexican Sedums in this characteristic, though it is more extreme than the species just mentioned since its leaves are in *Echeveria*-like rosettes. As both Berger (*Die Nat. Pflanzenfam.* ed. 2. p. 447. 1930) and Walther (this Journal, vol. 2:457 and vol. 8:84 1930 and 1936) have suggested, this species may represent a step in a line of development approaching *Echeveria*. On the other hand, it may simply represent an end line of development in which a previously diffuse branching system has become reduced until now only a relatively short stem and rosette of leaves remain. Since the flowers are decidedly of the *Sedum* type and since there are species intermediate in character between the present one and the more typical Sedums, I prefer to consider the species as belonging in *Sedum*. Others may prefer to regard it as representing a separate genus, in which case the proper name continues to be *Crennophila nutans*.

The illustration shows a plant cultivated in a greenhouse at Ithaca, New York. The flowers match pale primrose yellow of the Royal Horticultural Society's Colour Chart.

The name *Crennophila* is of Greek origin and means lover of cliffs or, less literally, cliff-dwelling plant.

Department of Botany
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York.

NEW FAMILIES

I have published two subfamilies, one of the Olacaceae, *Polygonantheae* (in Bull. Soc. Bot. France 86:5. 1939) and a second of the Dilleniaceae, *Austrobaileyeae* (in Jour. Arnold Arb. 21:404. 1940). The ending of the names I have proposed are appropriated for tribes, not subfamilies, as Kuhlmann has correctly pointed out by implication (in An. Prim. Reun. Sul-Amer. Bot. 3:74. 1940) in the notes under his *Polygonanthus punctulatus*. I now treat these two groups as full fledged families, as follows:

Polygonanthaceae Croiz.—Syn.: Olacaceae "subf." *Polygonantheae* Croiz. in Bull. Soc. Bot. France 86:5. 1939; in Jour. Arnold Arb. 20:443. 1939—*Euphorbiaceae* Subf. *Polygonanthoideae* Kuhlmann. Trib. *Polygonantheae* (Croiz.) Kuhlmann. in An. Prim. Reun. Sul-Amer. Bot. 3:74. 1940.

Austrobaileyeae Croiz.—Syn. *Dilleniaceae* "subf." *Austrobaileyeae* Croiz. in Jour. Arnold Arb. 21:404. 1940.

The ornamental value of these families remains to be explored. *Austrobaileya scandens* C.T. White may, perhaps, be some day cultivated as certain Asclepiadaceous plants of the *Hoya* description.

LEON CROIZAT.

CHECK LIST

California Cactus—Baxter	1.00
Pronouncing Glossary—Marshall, Woods.....	3.85
Cacti—Borg	6.60

BOX 101, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

VERANDA RAIL LUCK IN CANADA

All plants did excellently on the veranda rails this past summer with practically no casualties. It certainly is a lot cleaner than plunging the pots in the ground. With 90% glazed pots it is very attractive.

Tried six or more lots of seed including the genera *Astrophytum*, *Rebutia*, *Lophophora*, *Echinopsis*, *Notocactus* and *Cereus*. Also one packet of a cheap mixture. Germination was very poor in all cases and in fact was zero in several instances. This was in spite of the fact that I had an electrically heated forcing box available and was able to maintain temperatures up to 90° F. with a room temperature of 65-70° F.

Even those few seedlings that did come up damped off by fall and I have something like three puny *Cereus* hybrid seedlings left this spring.

Such luck is discouraging but imagine I have plenty of company! Maybe I'll give it a whirl some other time.

Had in previous years made a few grafts with enough success to encourage me to try a new batch. This time I had all the information in "Cacti for the Amateur," Frank Mark's grafting columns and the article by L. Cutak ("Culture of Succulents in the Midwest" Cact. Jour. Vol. XII, Dec., 1940, p. 193-199). The information given in all these was most helpful and I had a very good percentage of successful grafts. Among these were the following: *Aporocactus flagelliformis* on *Hylocereus* stock; this was very successful. It actually looked like the illustration given on p. 196 of Cutak's article when fall came; *Rebutia minuscule* on hybrid *Cereus* stock—made about four of these and all did remarkably well; *Chamaecereus silvestrii* on *Opuntia* seedlings; *Coryphantha pallida* on hybrid *Cereus* stock, *Cephalocereus chrysanthus* on hybrid *Cereus* stock; *Notocactus ottonis* on both *Cereus* and *Nyctocereus* stocks.

Because I had an electrically heated propagation box I tried out its use for freshly made grafts. This idea being the result of Cutak's recommendation of placing a graft of Xmas cactus on Night-blooming *Cereus* stock "in a warm, somewhat moist place." I soon found this idea to be of value—it seems to prevent drying out of the stock or scion from the exposed cut surfaces. Later in reading a book on Commercial Flower Forcing by two Ohio State Profs. I found that the use of high humidities for the grafting of roses was very beneficial and also for grafts using *Pereskia* as a stock. They say, "A close atmosphere, a temperature of 75° F., a little shade and daily syringing are required during the formation of the union."

I tried this method using *Pereskia*—had a fine graft even with the joint itself being sprayed with water.

Such treatment would be too severe for the more succulent stocks. With these latter I've found that from 12 to 24 hours is the best time for keeping them in the humid atmosphere.

My outstanding failure was with a crest of *Notocactus scopae*. I had made a graft from this plant several years previously. Now I thought I can't fail—with the result that I did—ended up with only one small bit grafted successfully and that was "blind" i.e. it had no growing center. It has one offset which I grafted a few days ago but I am wondering greatly if it will be crested or normal!

All in all it wasn't a bad year. Certainly the extra care I was able to give them showed up in cleaner, faster growth. I forgot to say that I had a bit of *Selenicereus macdonaldiae* for 4 years that hadn't more than existed. After reading Prof. Blocher's account of the treatment of his plant in the March "Bulletin"—I got nearly identically the results that he did when the plant was adequately potted and heavily watered.

C. GRAHAM DIMOCK.

AFFILIATE NOTES

Mail your news items monthly to Mrs. Maybelle Place, 645 W. 40 Place, Los Angeles.

Have been receiving some very interesting letters from our Affiliates and in spite of gas rationing most of them are carrying on, with their bulletins, special courses of study and articles on their plants.

From "The Cactus and Other Succulent League (Oakland Branch)", I received a complete list of their officers for 1943 (which already has been given in the JOURNAL), and the regular meeting date, the first Sunday of each month at 2:30 P. M., at the home of Mr. W. C. Andrews, 5161 Trask St., Oakland, Calif.

Mrs. W. Newlon writes, "We are really a very active group and our meetings are well attended in spite of the great handicap of transportation. Hoping that we may co-operate in any way in order to make the meetings interesting and worth while to the members in any part of the country."

The Central Iowa Cactus and Succulent Club, of Carroll, Iowa, and Jefferson, Iowa—two branches of equal standing.

President.....Mrs. Albert Janssen
Vice-President.....Mrs. A. L. Sutton
Secretary-Treasurer.....Mrs. Leo Schueller
Librarian.....Mrs. Elwood Sapp

The Carroll branch is studying succulents while the Jefferson branch favor cacti. Mrs. Sutton writes, "Due to gas rationing it is impossible for us to have regular meetings together as we used to. We therefore have a regular monthly meeting in each group. Here in Jefferson not a single one of the four of us has missed any of the four meetings we have had here. Our meetings have been spirited. The Carroll Branch writes us every month, and we exchange letters among each other. I am enclosing the year book for Carroll. Since there were only four of us here, we thought best to plan our programs as we go along." Their year book is hand made, red, white and blue, with the Salute to our Flag on the cover. With its list of officers and members, program for the year, club colors (green and red), and club flower (*Zygocactus truncatus*), result in a most attractive year book, showing much time and thought spent upon it.

The Cactus and Succulent Club of Chicago officers are:

President.....Mr. Edwin Martinek
Vice-President.....Mrs. J. Kaskia
Secretary.....Mrs. P. L. Akins
Treasurer.....Mrs. C. Radden
Corresponding Secretary.....Mrs. C. M. Hunter

Their special course of study this year is unique. At each meeting, each member receives a plant, (all the same), takes it home, plants it and after one year reports on growth, noting soil mixture, water given, growing conditions generally. A splendid way to learn about one plant. They also issue a very fine Bulletin each month.

The Denver Cactus and Succulent Society is suspended for the duration. Though they are not holding regular meetings, they have had several get-togethers and as soon as there is any "gas relief" they will resume their meetings.

El Paso Rock and Cactus Club officers are:

President.....Mrs. Reamu Billard
Vice-President.....Mrs. Albert Morrall
Secretary.....Mrs. Jesse Unsell
Treasurer.....Mrs. Grace Cardwell
Study Chairman.....Mrs. R. H. Miller

Mrs. Miller states that they are studying rocks and cactus, with the lessons outlined by the President and the Study Chairman who plan the year's program. These lessons are taken from the JOURNAL, the City Library or any other source of interest. They also have a Year Book but none available for our files this year.

The Heart of America Cactus and Succulent Club of Kansas City, Missouri, lists the following officers:

President.....Mr. E. R. Espenlaub
Vice-President.....Mr. C. C. Nazer
Secretary-Treasurer.....Mrs. E. R. Espenlaub
Librarian.....Mary Lee Rose
Editor.....Mary Lee Rose

We have a letter from Robert W. Rose, their past president, who started them "on their Bulletin project."

Dear Cactus Friends:

May I say that I truly appreciate your letter. Our Bulletin never lived up to my expectations of it but I do believe it has progressed a good deal. The library angle is one of the best ideas the club has had so far, I think. Yes, I believe they are getting a nice library. I enjoy reading their bulletins very much.

I receive the Cactus and Succulent Journal and got the 1942 Bulletins. I surely am sorry to hear of the temporary discontinuance of the latter. You really don't know how much pleasure a "cactus nut" can get out of reading those pages under these adverse conditions. I want the group to continue even if their efforts are feeble during trying times.

Yes, I think the Amateur Bulletin was a great idea and read every issue several times before sending the home to be put in my library. Incidentally, I recently got the back issues of the JOURNALS so now have a complete set. Think they are great, of course I haven't had much time to do more than finger through the early volumes.

I have been treated fine in the Army. I work in the S-4 or supply section of Division Artillery Headquarters. It agrees with me all right. I honestly believe I feel better than I ever did before.

SGT. ROBERT W. ROSE.

Their Bulletin is one of the fine ones, too, showing the time and care spent on it.

The Henry Shaw Cactus Society, Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, Mo., is going ahead with 32 active members. Not bad for one of the younger Societies. They also have a Bulletin, The Cactus Digest, issued monthly and is a fine record of the work they are doing.

The Kirksville Cactus Club, of Kirksville, Mo., has suspended the Club, due to the war. They voted in September to retain as far as possible the present officers, not to meet until further notice, and to retain membership in the National Society.

The Long Beach Cactus Club is really doing what might be called a "project." They are working on an Aloe garden which will be several times larger than their present Cactus Garden, located in Recreation Park. They are also sponsoring a movement to curb vandalism in their public parks and curbing through education.

Mr. Mason of Roslindale, Mass., writes that the Massachusetts Cactus and Succulent Society is suspended for the duration as many members are in the armed forces.

From the Midwest Cactus and Succulent Society Mr. Rodgers writes that their meetings are now being held bi-monthly with a Round Robin letter between meetings and is very successful. A cactus and a succulent is studied each meeting, each member bringing a specimen of the subject for "clinical" discussion.

The Cactus and Succulent Society of Milwaukee writes:

Dear Mrs. Place:

Yesterday we had our regular meeting, the first meeting in spring after a long hard winter. We hope the weather stays fine, but who can tell, we often say how lucky you people are in sunny California. We used to meet twice a month, but due to rationing we hold our meetings only once a month for the duration of the war. None of our members are in military service, but most members are active in defense work and in spite of the strain, we still find time to take care of our plants and the attendance at our meetings is always nearly 100%.

ERICH SALZMANN, *Secretary*.

The Roswell Cactus Club of Roswell, New Mexico, has not met regularly for over a year, due to other work, etc., but hope to resume their meetings soon.

The Southern California Cactus Exchange, Inc., has a change in officers, and will meet twice a year for the duration.

President.....Harry Grimes

Vice-President.....Clarence Clum

The other officers remaining the same, and instead of the monthly Bulletin, there will be but two for the year, one for the meeting, the 3rd Sunday in July, and one for the 3rd Sunday in December.

A. Malcom Martin writes from Philadelphia, "Things are going as well as can be expected of the Philadelphia Society in these times. Many of those interested have to work on our meeting days. We generally have 10 to 12 present out of 20 on roll. There is one family of three and Miss Biddle represents three members so that there are only about five who do not subscribe to the JOURNAL. We certainly appreciate Hummel's contribution to the cause. He should be awarded the medal of honor for this year for his Victory Picture Book. Best regards to all the California crowd and keep the JOURNALS flying.

The Cactus and Succulent Society of Australia went into recess in June, 1940, much to the regret of all, some of the really active members had gone overseas, others in camp and for a time there was no one left to prepare lectures. Five members still meet one another when possible and "swop the latest."

The Washington Cactus and Succulent Society have their work scheduled for the entire year, and for the month of April their subject will be the Growing of Seedlings, Advantages of Seedlings Over Collected Plants, and General Discussion.

I wish to thank all the Affiliates who have so kindly filled the report blanks I sent them and also for the Bulletins and Year Books. Please write me about your activities. To those Affiliates who have not answered the reports, may I ask you to try and do so. I do not always have the address of the present secretary but with your help our files can be brought up to date and we can be of mutual benefit to each other.

MAYBELLE PLACE, *Corresponding Secretary*.

THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT LEAGUE OAKLAND

The meeting of our club was held at the Botanical Garden of the University of California. Jack Whitehead, the manager of the U. C. Botanical Gardens and assistant in Plant Research, was our host.

Before we went through the garden a picnic lunch was enjoyed by the members. The greenhouse was loaded to capacity with cacti and other succulents. There was a great variety of both. Visiting members will do well to pay a visit to the gardens. Besides the large greenhouse there is an extensive out-door planting of cacti and other succulents.

The visit to the gardens was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Jack for the pleasant afternoon. He was kept busy answering all questions.

G. W. VANDERBUNT.

FROM CANADA

Since I wrote you, friends took me to the greenhouses at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, Ontario, one Sunday afternoon. This was a wonderful treat for me, because they have a fairly large display of cacti and other succulents. Many were in bloom and it is always so interesting to see specimen sized plants when one has only window sill size plants!

Some years ago when I was in good health I saw another fine display of specimen plants of both cacti and succulents at the greenhouses at the University of Toronto.

Because most Canadian fans are rather isolated and some may have moved to points in Ontario because of war work it would probably be a good idea to publish a brief item stating that public displays are to be seen at the following places in Ontario.

(1) Greenhouses located at the Ontario Agricultural College (O. A. C.) at Guelph. Greenhouses are open mornings and afternoons week days and Sunday afternoons 'till 4 p. m.

(2) Greenhouses at the University of Toronto located on College Street in Toronto.

(3) Greenhouse at "Allen Gardens" Toronto—Carleton Street—The Allen Gardens have fewer cacti and succulents than the two former places, but have many other interesting tropical plants.

Here is a suggestion for an item in one of the coming JOURNALS. A list of cristate cacti that will bloom. I am sure that it would be very helpful to all those members who have to buy their plants by mail and who can only afford one or two crests. Mr. Mark, in one of his grafting columns (Oct., 1940) says that many crests will bloom but only cites two of them and by diligent perusal of the back JOURNALS and catalogues I have only been able to find two other species definitely mentioned as flowering.

However, because I have the B. & R. reprint, the first Stapelia book and both "Cacti for the Amateur" and "Succulents for the Amateur," I could probably give some help to other Canadian collectors of the window sill and porch-rail variety! But wouldn't be able to help advance collectors.

The fine "Victory Picture Book" included with the March JOURNAL is *priceless*! I am sending Hummel's a note of appreciation—it's the best we Society members can do. I was particularly pleased to see the credit and publicity they gave you *personally* as well as the Society.

You might list me in the JOURNAL as willing to trade cuttings and small plants with other Ontario society members.

C. GRAHAM DIMOCK,
Rt. 2, Kitchener,
Ontario, Canada.

FROM NEW YORK

In Durhamville, New York, I find it is a good plan to have at least two cactus beds. One in the full sun all day and one which receives only part of the morning sun. I usually try cacti in full sun first and if they don't do well, I put them in the other bed with more shade.

Due to difference in climate, many cacti which will not stand full sun in their native habitat do better here in the sun.

A. C. TRACY.

FROM PENNSYLVANIA

I want to tell you about a little experiment on two Orchid cacti that I've had for years and didn't know what they were until I got Johnson's catalog and "Cacti for the Amateur." Last summer they bloomed at the same time and I crossed them. One is the Pink Empress and the red is Ackermannii. I read that some seed should be seasoned, so I wrote Mr. Johnson and asked him about it and he said Orchid Cactus seed comes up better when it is two years old or more. In the meantime the 3 fruits on the Empress turned red. I thought I couldn't wait two years and since I had plenty of seed I tried an experiment.

I had some soil mixed for other cacti and added a little more leafmold. I put in a half-inch layer of crushed brick, then an inch of soil, then 1/2 inch or more of sphagnum moss screened through window screen. On January 10 I set the can in B-1 solution, put the seed on damp moss and covered with dry moss. On February 1st I had 23 germinate and last month I sowed a few more but they are slower about showing up.

The fruit on the Ackermannii didn't color but became lighter in color. On March 19th I cleaned windows on the sun porch and in moving it the fruit fell off. On the 22nd I sowed some of the seed in moss but only 2 came up so far. They were up on April 7th, but the can is uneven and glass only rests on ends.

I've been wondering how old seedlings should be to graft; I would like to hurry them up a bit.

MRS. SHERMAN SUGARS.

SAVE YOUR SEEDS

This season save your seeds to pass on to beginners who would like to experiment with seedlings. For that purpose, seeds of common cacti and succulents would give lots of pleasure to those who have never had the thrill of growing the plants from seed. Perhaps, too, a lift of this kind will make them avid or rabid collectors. Lawyer Clum has at last condescended to expose all the tricks of seed cleaning. Don't let your JOURNAL lapse.

LIST OF HARDY CACTI WANTED

I would like a list of the cacti that might grow out doors here in Cincinnati. Find Echinopsis will survive 10 above but we generally get 20 below. Usually preceded by 70 above. Lost several *Echinocereus viridiflorus* through leaving this last winter. *C. peruvianus* seedlings (undoubtedly hybrids) go with the first hard freeze. Most of the small pad *Opuntias* are O.K. even Mexican and Texas varieties.

CHAS. R. COLE.

FROM PENNSYLVANIA

I feel quite happy today. I had my first two blooms on a Joseph De Laet Epiphyllum today (April 24). Rosetta, Gloria and Latona are showing buds and it looks like I am in for some nice flowers for some time to come. I have about 30 named varieties of Orchid Cacti and about 15 unnamed varieties but all are small plants, so I can't expect too much.

DR. L. W. JONES.

CORRESPONDENTS WANTED

As far as I am concerned, "Notes on Haworthias" and "Notes on Apicras," both by J. R. Brown, are among the JOURNAL's best features. Couldn't all the "Notes" which have appeared in the JOURNAL since its start be reprinted in book form? It would save this eternal thumbing back over old volumes. Also, I am sure that the majority of members do not have all the JOURNALS, from vol. I on up.

Another feature which I like particularly well is John Rodger's "Cereusly Speaking." He gives you several good tips—tips which you can really use.

That "Victory Picture Book" which Hummel contributed is one of the grandest things I have seen. This is the spirit which our dealers should have. I have bought collections from Hummel when they were retailing and I know that his plants either live up to those illustrations or surpass them. Three cheers for Hummel!

EILEEN M. CURRAN,
35 Caldera Pl., Staten Island, N. Y.

STILL THEY COME

"Could you interest other dealers in putting an insert in the JOURNAL similar to Hummel's in the March issue?" The same proposition is open to all dealers. From the hundreds of letters we are sure that there has been no greater contribution to stimulate interest in cactus growing than the 48-page book referred to. If twelve dealers or the Association would sign up for a 32-page insert each, we would give to the cactus world a 400 page picture book within a year—and we have the cuts, just waiting.

DISGRACE

Dr. Robert Craig will be in disgrace from now on! He rushed into the JOURNAL office and reported that the world had come to an end and that the last JOURNAL was all wrong. We have heard this before. Calmly inquiring the damage, we learned that professionally, a dentist works on the other side of the patient when extracting a lower right-hand molar (or something). See Fig. 24, April JOURNAL. Will all the other dentists in our organization please be lenient with Dr. Craig (no, he is not left handed) and blame instead the man who made the print—George Lindsay who is in the army and should be able to defend himself. When George comes out of the Army a specialized photographer, he won't reverse negatives any more!

"DESERT PLANT LIFE"

We have had many requests for information regarding Desert Plant Life Magazine and the following may answer those who are wondering about their subscription. Last year's issues have been published including the doubling up of May-June and July-August issues. If you have not received the December issue you probably won't, because it is reported that no more are available. In 1943, the January, February, and March issues have been published up to May 15th. Dr. Poin-dexter would have a chuckle over the "scoop" about his demise of the middle of March, yet his obituary appeared in the February issue of "Desert Plant Life!" That's all we know.

In this morning's mail of the American Horticultural Society came a letter from a member now away from his home and garden, in the U. S. A. Air Forces saying—"and don't let the Society falter even though the times are trying." In that spirit the American Horticultural Society intends to continue and even increase its efforts for horticulture in all its phases, confident of its importance in winning the war, and in cementing international friendships when peace returns.



SPINE CHATS

LADISLAV CUTAK



A reader of this page defies me to print something about myself. Really folks, I do not want to write about myself, but rather about YOU. That was my original purpose but if you want a little gossip then you'll get it. Definitely though, there is nothing interesting about myself. I was born because, that was the only way to get into this world. The event occurred on the 27th day of May, 1908, when as a bouncing babe I was ceremoniously dumped into Papa Cutak's lap. (Oh yes, the first born always is the pride, so they say). I was duly christened with the unusual name that I so proudly now bear, but it was not always thus (had to lick a lot of kids in my younger days). However, the name is not so unusual but rather common among Slavic peoples, and would you believe it, Mexicans like it too. Señor Ladislav they call me below the Rio Grande, but here in our country it's Lad, Laddie or Ladislav.

Seriously though, I became interested in horticulture about 1930, three years after my dad had secured a job for me at Shaw's Garden, where he, too, is employed—in the capacity of orchid and water-lily man. As I look at it now, I really fooled away the first three years at the Garden, because at that time, I had no desire to follow in my dad's footsteps. Desert plants, however, intrigued me from the start and gradually became the overwhelming interest of my life. In 1935 an opportunity arose to study plants in their native habitat, and since then thousands of miles have been covered in search of them.

On the last day of this month, Lydia and I will celebrate our eleventh wedding anniversary. Laddie and Dicky will be present to light the candles on our wedding cake and there evidently will be another most welcome guest. Sure, I'll tell you about it next month.

Oh, you're wondering how to pronounce my name correctly? Really, it's not hard. Pronounce it as if it was written LADDIE-SLAWS CUE-TACK. Both accents on the last syllable.

Mary Lee Rose is still in the age where she doesn't have to hesitate in giving it. What age is that? Well, she's sweet twenty-one and just missed being a St. Patrick baby by three days. Miss Rose hails from Kansas City, Missouri, where her folks manage the Quality Hill Cactus Home. The young lady is the Librarian-Editor of the Heart of America Cactus Club. The whole Rose family is cactus and succulent plant-minded. Brother Bob is interested in Haworthias and keeps sending home money for the purchase of new species. Even army life cannot stop him from continuing his hobby. He is a Sergeant in an artillery outfit stationed at Camp Barkeley, Texas. It is up to the mother to take care of his plants. I know that Sergeant Bob realizes that mother, after all, is the most wonderful person in this world. Sister Mary seems to have a preference for Stapelias. Mr. Rose favors the Epiphyllums and Mrs. Rose collects cacti in general.

The ladies of the Des Moines Cactus Club are kept quite busy these days. All of them are doing some

form of war work and most of them have very close members in the armed forces. The downtown meetings are preceded by several hours of Red Cross work, then lunch is served and the cactus session follows. Most of the members are not ordering new plants now, but rather are taking better care of their old ones. The Des Moines group has a full membership and find a nice uplift to their morals in the study of cacti.

H. C. Shetrone, Director of the Ohio State Museum, Columbus, is not only a rabid cactus and succulent enthusiast, but Ohio's leading mound expert. He is so skillful that he can trace out the individual loads of earth dumped down by the carriers in building a mound and has even discovered imprints of baskets that had not been emptied of their loads.

Do you want your cacti to have that green, fat, well-fed look? "Most emphatically," I hear you say in unison. Then you must give them lime and manure. Lime makes the skeleton and liquid manure makes the flesh. Give them both, so that the body, skeleton and flesh can form together. Plants, however, must be established to receive this treatment.

Dr. Leon Croizat informs me that the body of the popular Old Man Cactus, *Cephalocereus senilis*, contains 85½% of oxalate of lime (dry weight). Now what does that suggest? Simply this, that the Old Man needs lime in the soil if we intend to grow him well.

During the latter part of March, a number of cactus friends paid me personal visits. First to come were Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Willis of the Denver Cactus Society. Julia Willis is highly enthused about her collection of 300 succulents and she probably inherited her enthusiasm for these plants from her father who also maintains a fine collection. Mr. Willis is beginning to like cacti, too, simply because as a dutiful husband, he aids his wife in maintaining them. The cactus hobby is gradually being instilled in him (or should I say "mildly forced upon him"). He loves it though and is not afraid to admit it.

Mr. Sherman S. Shaffer of Baytown, Texas, was the next visitor. He is an oil man with cactus for a hobby. Rather takes his hobby quite seriously, too, and at present possesses about 150 varieties. Bemoans the fact that he has to live in that part of Texas where the native cacti consist only of Opuntias. Lucky man, too, for he owns the complete set of the Cactus Journal.

L. E. Johnson and his brother, A. W. B., arrived in town for a few hours and immediately hid themselves to Shaw's Garden to renew old acquaintances. The brothers operate the Blue Boar Cafeteria Company in Louisville, Kentucky, and branches in several Midwestern towns. Both men are confirmed plant lovers; L. E. is crazy about cacti and succulents with a particular fancy for the South African stonefaces, silverskins, etc., while A. W. S. grows orchids, bromeliads and anthuriums.

The next 4 pages are the 10th installment of Werdermann's "Brasilian und Seine Saulenkakteen."



FIG. 32. *Graptopetalum filiferum* as it grows under glass. Nat. size.

Graptopetalum filiferum

By JACK WHITEHEAD

Photos by J. R. BROWN

For some time the writer has had under observation an interesting small plant labelled *Sedum filiferum* S. Watson. It is unlikely that this plant has ever been generally known in cultivation. It was originally collected by Edward Palmer in Chihuahua, Mexico, and, from a cultivated plant, described by Sereno Watson. Some years ago this plant was again collected by Dr. Robert T. Craig and Mr. George Lindsay in southwestern Chihuahua, and, in the course of its distribution, added to the writer's collection of Crassulaceae. In the early summer of 1942 this plant flowered and its general aspect, habit of growth, inflorescence, and flowers at once suggested *Graptopetalum* rather than *Sedum* as its proper genus. The flowers especially are characteristic of *Graptopetalum* with distinctly white, red-blotched corolla-segments, recurving stamens, and erect carpels. Perhaps it is most closely related to *Graptopetalum rusbyi* (Greene) Rose, of central and southwestern Arizona.

GRAPTOPETALUM FILIFERUM (S. Watson) Nov. Comb.

Sedum filiferum S. Watson, Proc. Amer. Acad. April 1886.: perennial, caespitose, glabrous, the branching rootstock bearing rosettes of numerous spatulate leaves, 4 to 8 lines long, which are abruptly acute and attenuate into filiform appendages or setae 2 to 3 lines long; flowering stem lateral, slender, naked, ascending, about 4 inches high, bearing an open cyme; pedicels 3 to 4 lines long; sepals oblong, (2 lines long), pointed with a short seta; petals spreading, narrowly lanceolate, acute, nearly twice longer than the sepals, white below, reddish above; stamens 10, exceeding the sepals and oblong carpels. Raised in Washington from seeds collected by Dr. Palmer in Chihuahua.

The above is the original description; perhaps a few additional observations may be included here: Plant perennial, caespitose, acaulescent,

rosulate, increasing by offsets. Flowering rosette 5-6 cm. in diameter, with from 75-100 leaves; juvenile central rosette-leaves have the "filaments" white instead of the adult chestnut-brown, and spread radially so that immature rosettes appear arachnoid. Leaves in compact flattened rosettes, spatulate, 20-30 mm. long, 8-12 mm. wide, 2-4 mm. thick, widest near apices, fleshy, bright shining green, minutely papillose with narrow white wing-like margins, convex on both surfaces, cuspidate at apices and tipped by very fine hair-like chestnut-brown "filaments" 5-12 mm. long or longer. Inflorescence lateral, from axils of lower leaves, openly cymose with 2-4 branches, each bearing 2-5 secund flowers: peduncles several (six in specimen examined), 40-80 mm. high, 2-4 mm. thick, ascending and somewhat curved, pale green: scattered bracts few to several, somewhat obovate, about 8 mm. long, gradually decreasing in size upward on stems, rather easily detached and caducous, alternate, thick and fleshy, tipped by chestnut-brown "filaments." Flowers erect, pentagonally or hexagonally angled in bud, about 2 cm. in diameter when fully opened: pedicels upright, slender, 10-15 mm. long, 1-1.5 mm. thick, bearing from 1-3 minute bracts: calyx-segments 5-6 (occasionally 7), obovate, obtuse and mucronate, appressed, 4-5 mm. long, nearly equal, about same length as corolla-tubes, somewhat united at bases, thick and fleshy, reddish-green, minute-

ly papillose: corolla-segments 5-6 (occasionally 7), united one-third their length, 1-1.2 cm. long, lanceolate, acuminate to mucronate, at first erect, then spreading rotately and, after anthesis again erect, keeled on back, channelled on face, lower two-thirds white, upper one-third heavily blotched deep maroon-red: stamens twice as many as corolla-segments, slightly longer than carpels, unequal, with those alternate the petals longer, basifixed, and, after anthesis, recurving between the corolla-segments those opposite shorter, adnate to corolla-segments, about 4 mm., bending back into channel on face of each corolla-segment: anthers ovate, markedly 4-angled, mucronate at apices, maroon-red. Nectar scales small, reniform, yellow. Carpels 5 or 6 (occasionally 7), erect, pale green, long-lanceolate, decidedly 4-angled, about 7 mm. long, united about one-third their length, abruptly tapering into somewhat capitate, white stigmas. Fruits consisting of 5, 6, or 7 somewhat united follicles. Seeds not observed.

The specimen here described is in the writer's collection of Crassulaceous plants where it has been under cultivation for several months. It was originally collected in Chihuahua, Mexico, by Dr. Robert T. Craig, well-known specialist on *Mammillaria* and George Lindsay, intrepid plant explorers of Mexico. Dr. Craig, in a letter to the writer, states in effect: We found it in

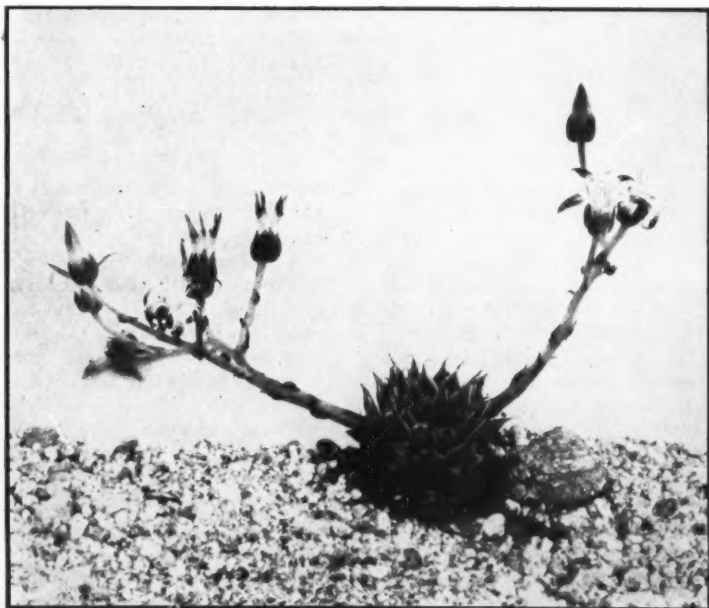


FIG. 33. *Graptopetalum filiferum* grown out of doors. Nat size.



FIG. 34. LEFT: Inflorescence and leaves of a plant grown under glass. RIGHT: Inflorescence and leaves of a plant grown in the open. Nat. size.

the cliffs of the Barranca de Cobre of the Rio Urique branch of the Rio Fuerte in Southwestern Chihuahua at longitude $107^{\circ} 50'$, latitude $27^{\circ} 25'$ approximately, about 7000 feet, asso-

ciated with *Agave* sp., *Mammillaria Craigii*, Oaks and Pines.

University of California Botanical Garden, Berkeley, California.

Plant Hunting in the Tarahumare Mountains of Chihuahua, Mexico

By GEORGE LINDSAY

Part II, Concluded from April JOURNAL.

one would pass through more and more arid regions, till in the bottom one finds typical desert vegetation.

For several days we had failed to find cacti in any abundance, but upon dropping over the rim of the canyon, where strong updrafts brought warm air from below, we found many interesting plants. The finest was the beautiful type of *Mammillaria Craigii*, whose single golden heads were plastered against the vertical rock wall. While we cautiously edged about the trail-less cliffs selecting specimens to collect, "Doc" noticed a tiny succulent growing deep in the fissures of the rock. Digging them out with our sheath knives we found them to be near *Grapt-*

petalum occidentale, but more dainty. We soon found another small rosette *Graptopetalum*. While I was setting up my camera for some photos of the Barranca, Champion brought in a fine specimen of *Graptopetalum amethystinum* (Rose) Walther. The specimen found had several branches bearing the exquisitely colored leaves, but we were unable to locate any further plants. All in all the hour or two spent along the brink was perhaps the most interesting of the trip and our regret is that we did not have more time to extend our exploration in this area.

We were very limited for time, and expecting to find much the same sort of plants at the Bar-



FIG. 35. Barranca del Rio Urinque, a continuation of the Barranca de Cobre. The type locality of *Mammillaria Craigii* and the unknown *Graptopetalum* (pg. 69) was also found along the faces of the high cliffs in the right side of the photograph. George Lindsay photo.

ranca farther on, left without further hunting. That evening we camped late, after a forced march to find water. The next day about noon we reached our destination, Choro, where we found an interesting old adobe mission, as well as a ranch belonging to a Mexican, Don Jose Mancinas. Don Jose was the military chief of the district and was most hospitable, giving us a room in his hacienda and place to keep our stock.

The plants at the edge of the Barranca here were very disappointing. As our elevation was higher, the succulents were practically lacking. We did find an *Echinocereus* species, which has grown very well here and has blossomed this spring, as well as two other miniature *Sedums*. We had expected to descend to the bottom of the Barranca, but found that we couldn't spare the time and get back to meet necessary appointments. However, we were very happy to have a day or two to spend at Choro, in the comfort of a home, for it was Thursday of Easter week and Indians from many miles around were congregating at the church for the celebration of their religious Easter period. The church was made of adobe, with a double roof of split pine logs. It was beautifully preserved, having been in continual use since it was built. The paintings and figures of Saints in the interior were

in perfect order, and the walls were covered with fine Indian decorations in rich earthen colors. These missions are very much older than those in California, but have always been so isolated in these high mountains that they were protected from vandals. Thus we noticed some of the men in processions carrying old flintlock muskets and long iron pikes of the type used by the Spanish colonial armies two hundreds years ago. We found other such relics piled in the corner, all of which gave us the feeling of living in the past.

Tarahumare celebrations are a curious mixture of Catholicism and Paganism, as are the Yaqui ceremonials, and for two days we watched them dance, march, sing to the accompaniment of wierd reed flutes, violins, and hand drums. At night complicated ritual was carried out by the light of pine flares. We were happy to have the opportunity of photographing many of the ceremonies.

Saturday morning we did a little trading with the Indians, acquiring several blankets and fajas, a feather head dress, etc., but in general the Indians were reluctant to part with their things. If they sold their single blanket, it of course meant they would be cold till they could weave another! Money was of no use; they were chiefly interested in obtaining manta,

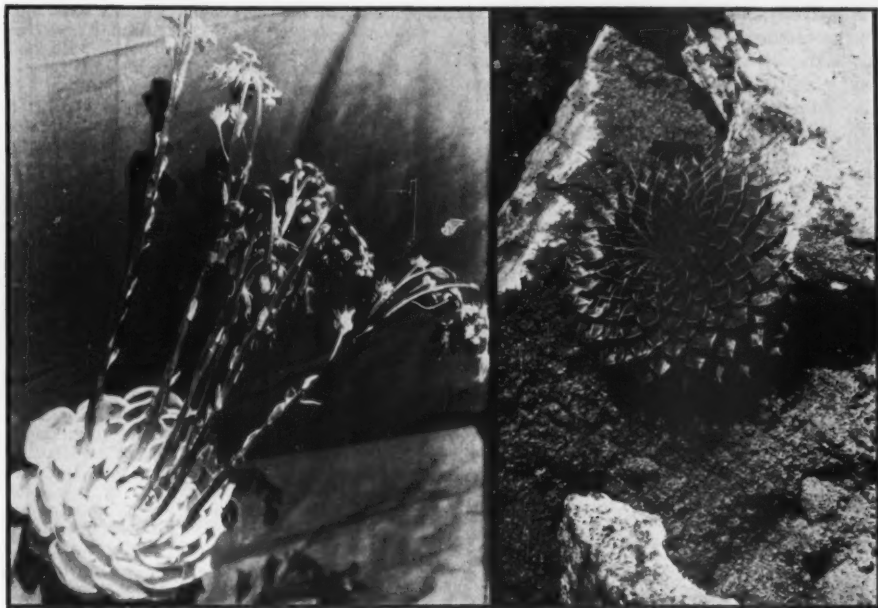


FIG. 36. *Echeveria* species, possibly *E. cuspidata* as tentatively identified by Walther, from the "picachos" near Cerocahui. RIGHT: Small *Graptopetalum* from Barranca del Rio Urinque with interesting terminal hairs at the apex of each leaf. Jack Whitehead is naming this unknown plant.

matches, and 30-30 rifle shells, which Juan distributed judiciously one at a time. I had brought several pocket and hunting knives which were popular, but the joke was on "Doc," who brought several inexpensive watches. In the first place the Indians didn't read numerals, in the second they wouldn't have been able to tell time, thirdly they measure the day by sunrise, midday, and sunset, not by hours, and perhaps the most important, they didn't care what time it was after all.

We left at noon Saturday in order to get to Cerocahui on Easter day. Early the following morning an Indian came into camp carrying some attractive *Echeverias* from tall "picachos," or rocky crags, nearby. The leaves were a beautiful blue-green tinged in pink and the plants were in full flower, each bearing several delicate coral blossom-stalks. The plants may be *Echeveria cuspidata*, or possibly *E. Corderoyi*, but in either case it would mean a decided extension of range.

At Cerocahui we met the priest, Father Lara, S.J., who showed us his mission and explained the tremendous work he has undertaken in ministering in this field. The mission was intensely interesting to me, for it was built in 1731 by Father Salvatierra before he went to found the first missions in Lower California. Of adobe and stone, it contained relics such as old

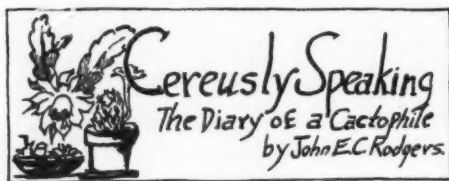
guns, pikes, carved chests and chairs, etc. At the mission we also saw a "correro," a running game of the Tarahumares. It was an endurance run, and they sometimes last for as long as seventy-two hours, the players in motion without rest, for that period of time. It was their game before the arrival of the Spaniards, and the endurance of the players seems impossible.

We were definitely anxious to get back now, as our time was nearly gone. We returned over the same route we went in by, stopping from time to time to collect. When we arrived in Bacopaco, two days from the ranch by pack train, Champion and I left the party and rode ahead in order to have an extra day to collect about Guirocoba. Thus the last day out we rode over sixty miles.

Our trip was a success from our standpoint. We regretted not having been able to descend into the Barranca, as we both felt there must have been new and different things there. As it was, we have described two new *Mammillarias*, discovered on the trip, and other cacti are still being studied. Besides this we were able to get valuable data on the distribution of many of the cacti that first appear near Alamos, viz. *Ferocactus alamosanus*, *Erbinocereus subinermis*, *Cephalocereus leucocephalus*, *Lemaireocereus montanus*, etc. As is usual, we saw just enough of that country to realize how much ex-

ploring remains to be done, and to feel strongly the urge to participate in that plant exploring!

Collections on this trip were made under a permit granted George Lindsay by the Departamento Forestal y de Caza y Pesca, Servicio de Pastos Hierbales Y Arbustos Silvestres, number 224-9309, and signed March 6, 1939, by Rodolfo Sada Paz.



CULTURE IN OHIO

May 1. In checking labels today, I am surprised to see how many new plants I have added to my collection. A few here and a few there soon add up. Most of my labels are 1/2 inch strips of discarded lithographers aluminum. It comes in very thin sheets which I can cut with old shears in strips 5 to 7 inches long. I learned of the permanence of this material for labels from Gene Ziegler (lithography is what he does for a living). He has given me enough at various times to fill my needs, so I know nothing of the cost. One side is roughened by an acid treatment, I should think, and these "discarded sheets" do not meet the requirements of the profession. The present priorities on aluminum probably make this stuff unavailable at the present time. I write the names of the plants on these strips with a blue checking pencil or with ordinary lead pencil. The ones I labeled in this manner in 1932 are as readable as the day I printed them. They do not corrode in the soil, the name can be erased and if carefully done, can be reused. "Cacti for the Amateur" by Haselton has other suggestions for labeling on page 51.

May 3. Never fail to intrigue me, my plants. They come to me in clay pots, or wrapped, soil free, in California newspapers. Only my books tell me where they come from—high mountains, plateaus, and grass lands of South America and Mexico, or the deserts and semi-arid regions of our own country. Houghton's conspectus and M. & B.* and B. & R. note habitat, too, in each plant description. From Houghton's conspectus I get, in addition to the country, quite a satisfactory introduction to any plant in table form. For example: *Opuntia vestita* is starred, meaning it is suitable for indoor cultivation. Needs full sun, sandy soil, damp, temperate, dwarf, flower red, habitat Bolivia. Hundreds of "desirable kinds" of cacti are listed in this manner. As I acquire a plant listed in Houghton, I print the date I get it in the conspectus. The book is showing wear. Have re-read Goodspeed's "Plant Hunters of the Andes." It takes me where my South American plants grow. Next to travel, I like books.

May 5. *Epiphyllum ackermannii* has been covered with flowers to the extent that I have been cutting blooms off and giving them to "visiting ladies." There is no ceiling on flowers in Ohio. Easter corsages were \$4.50 up. A gardenia blossom was \$1.25. And Sandy has strutted with *Epiphyllum* corsages on her lapel! Snow promised here May 3. Down to 38 degrees and had to use electric heater. Couldn't let *Selenicereus*

spinulosus be chilled. Stayed up until 2 a. m. Sunday making a drawing of that beautiful bloom. Since 1934, *S. pteranibis* has been my favorite of the *Selenicereus* blossoms. But I do believe *spinulosus* has something it doesn't have. At the moment I have some pretty nice buds on *Selenicereus: inermis, grandiflorus, coniflorus, murrillii, vagans, macdonaldiae, pteranibis, donkelaerii, bondurensis* and "verdicarpus."

May 7. C. Graham Dimock writes me from Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. An engineer by profession, a cactophile otherwise. Suggests that I incorporate more descriptive detail about succulents in my column. "Such descriptions would be particularly valuable for many succulent plants which are not so described in 'Succulents for the Amateur' but are listed in catalogues generally," he writes. I, too, like to look through the books I have to see what to expect from a budded plant. When I found *Crassula orbicularis* budded, I eagerly consulted "Succulents for the Amateur" and found the picture showed a plant with a bud just showing. But no picture of the bloom. Most succulent flowers need amplification to satisfy the human eye. A fair powered magnifying glass helps. A close-up kodachrome slide of a succulent bloom projected on a screen is spectacular. The flower of *C. orbicularis* is only 1/8 inch in diameter, five pointed, petals have rose tips, yellow throats, *C. hemisphaerica* is about same size, but yellow. Both have clusters of blooms on 5-6 inch stems.

May 9. *Thelocactus bastifer* growing vigorously (pg. 169, fig. 128 Marshall & Bock). Seedlings are most unusual. *Rebutia oururiensis* (Johnson's catalog, 1939, pg. 116 for picture) has four new offsets near the crowns of the older offsets. Bought mine from a Johnson plant dealer. I do not find it listed as a synonym for any *Rebutia* in M. & B. or B. & R. Dimmock, the engineer from Ontario, lists it as one of the plants in his collection. He buys from C. W. Armstrong in Vancouver. I do find *Lobivia orurensis* listed on page 129 M. & B. My plant has a flame flower, not red, anthers and stigma light yellow; but covered with black hair. Bloom one and one-half inches in diameter and the same in length. M. & B. says, "Lobivias are usually larger than Rebutias but this is no positive rule and the separation of the two genera is an arbitrary one rather than a natural separation." (Pg. 126) *Lobivia*? Could be. I have a plant which I bought from Eugene Ziegler which came to him as a *Malacocarpus chilensis* direct from South America. Gene had several large specimens but they died while the small ones survived, climate, soil, or what, I wonder. Ribs tubercled and spiraled 6 to 8 setaceous spines and 3 to 5 stiff spines. The central one curves upward. May be a *Neoporteria* as I notice M. & B. list several former *Malacocarpus* under this genus. As this plant has never bloomed I cannot at present classify it from any descriptions I have read. Resembles *Neoporteria oculata* but has spines. Pictures in B. & R. and M. & B. certainly are helpful in eliminating many of the "similar" types first, when an amateur tries to identify a plant. More pictures with descriptions for us amateurs!

May 12. Have all my basement-wintered *Opuntias* and *Epiphyllums*, fig tree and large double datura on side porch. Look good after a long, long winter with limited light, uncertain watering and heat. *Epiphyllum oxypetalum* is in a lard tub and has a soil of decayed manure, garden loam and leaf mold. When given to me three years ago, it was a sorry affair, stems half an inch in diameter and cut back to six-inch lengths and a few etiolated shoots which were keeping the plant alive. It has now regained some of its beauty. Quite a few of my prized plants were given me when their former owners had given up all hope.

*Marshall and Bock's "Cactaceae"

May 16. Saw a six-inch crest of *Rebutia minuscula* covered with buds and blooms in Dr. Wachwart's collection. Fascination certainly did add to the possible bloom centers. Not less than 50 buds and more showing—growing on a *Cereus peruvianus* stalk which is my choice for "permanent" grafts.

May 19. If I haven't found the complete answer to plants that start buds and lose them because new growth begins, I have at least started in the right direction. I have been adding "Vigoro" or any other plant food containing potassium (potash). I have divided my cacti that have bloomed into two classes. First, those that will not bloom after growth commences and second, those that will not bloom until growth begins. Extra feeding helps. The plants do not seem to be able to feed growth and blooms at the same time without help.

May 21. I'm encouraged. One of the troubles I find with culture of Epiphyllums in a small greenhouse is lack of space. In an article about George Payne, "Orchid Cactus" by R. A. Langley in *Better Homes and Gardens*, October, 1942, I read, "All Epiphyllum hybridizers are working for more compact plants." I agree with Dr. Jacolyn Manning that cascading Epiphyllums are beautiful when they are in bloom but they are like a lazy man in a small apartment, rather sprawling. Vertical culture is more economical of space for me if not as decorative. Mr. Payne's culture notes are thorough. He has been raising Epiphyllums since 1905, which is a record, as most cactophiles seem to turn to orchids or other flora.

May 25. Well, my year is up as a deputy regional vice-president. Got my notification a year ago today of my appointment. Hope regional vice-president Charles Cole knows my good intentions. I do send him a copy of our Midwest Society "Spine Tips" each month. We were to receive a copy of their club news letter in return. Haven't. Guess they are too busy in Cincinnati planning our next convention. Wonder why more members don't take advantage of that "Editorial Staff: The Entire Society." The invitation to contribute articles for the JOURNAL is extended by Editor Haselton each month. My pet peeve when I edit "Spine Tips" is that cactus collectors as a tribe, are pretty poor reporters. Most people think Democracy works and everyone does something—but they don't, do they, Scott—and other club editors?

May 27. Planted fruit from *Opuntia elata* which bloomed last year on this date, but the pesky thing doesn't grow. Just gets redder and redder, although it does have roots. That *O. "monacantha"* fruit in the "Amateur growing contest" has two three-inch stems. Elata, Scott?

May 30. *Lemaierocereus chicle* has resumed normal growth. Has had a hard time growing because I kept it too dry. Now I have it marked damp and it does improve its appearance. Only *Lemaierocereus* I keep dry is *weberi*. It's so easy to think so-and-so keeps his plants wet because you have been there right after watering or another grower keeps his plants dry, because you happen in at the end of a busy week or on an extra warm day. I guess I'm like the fellow who tried to figure how he had earned a degree. "One knows more and more about less and less until one knows a great deal about nothing," was his conclusion. Cactophiles visit me on cloudy days or at night and give advice about more light. On a sunny day I get advice about more shade. So it goes. In February I had brought a large *Graptopetalum* up from the basement where I had put it because it took up so much room. It had grown leggy as it would when it lacked light. A collector whom I admire visited me that evening and since the visit, has mentioned to several people, "Too bad. Rodgers' house certainly needs

more light," and refers to the poorly grown *Graptopetalum*. Wish he'd visit me some sunny day. Funny how we remember, not what people say to us, but what they say about us.

May 31. Have several *Aeoniums* which are doing fine, but haven't bloomed: *A. arboreum* var. *atropurpureum*, *tabulaeforme*, *haworthii*, *canariense*, *decorum*, and *sedifolium*. Must not be too wet or too dry. I keep mine in a cool place in winter as well as the summer and water enough to keep just moist. *Greenovia aurea* has four offsets and three stalks of spent blooms. I thought it would die after blooming like a *Sempervivum*, but *Greenovia* put out offsets and so carries on.

Culture Cues for June

1. Give a heavy coat of whitewash to roof of greenhouse. Add a handful of salt to lime mixture.
2. Set shade-loving plants under grape arbor, pergola, and shrubbery.
3. Take out stove and pipes. Clean thoroughly with wire brush. Spray stove with old crank case oil. Clean pipe and paint with aluminum paint (if you have it).
4. Work small amount of bonemeal into soil about plants that have finished blooming this year. Six months is usually allowed for bonemeal to "take effect."
5. Make cuttings of plants for sand box. (Get ready for Christmas gifts.)
6. Plant *C. peruvianus* seedlings in border in full sun to improve their color. (A nine year old seedling bloomed in one collection here last year. And Lewis Wahrer had a top cutting bloom and it had offsets, too.)
7. "Roast" in full sun: *Echinocereus blanckii*, *berlandieri*, *Chamaecereus silvestrii* until frost (worked for me last year, for they all bloomed).
8. Examine hardy *Opuntias*, *Sempervivums* and *Sedums* in a rockery for ant infestations.
9. Give special attention to the following cacti which have bloomed in June in previous years for me here in Ohio: CACTI: *Echinocereus pectinatus*, *perbellus*; *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*, *ackermannii*, *vive rouge*, *cooperi*; *Thelocactus bicolor*; *Selenicereus bonadurensis*, *pteranthus*, *macdonaldiae*, *coniflorus*, *donkelaerii*; *Gymnocactus mihanovichii*; *Mam. "dolococentra"*; *Malacocarpus "argentiensis"*; *mammulosus* and *submammulosus*; *Astrophytum asterias*; *Echinopsis albiflora*; *Heliocereus speciosus*; *Frailea grabliana*; *O. compressa* and *trichophora*; *Coryphantha arizonica*; *Lobivia bertrichiana*. SUCCULENTS: *Stapelia grandiflora*; *Euphorbia obesa*; *Huernias schneideriana* and *loesneriana*; *Mesembryanthemum blandum*; *Bergeranthus scapiger*; *Atenia cordifolia*; *Dyckia sulfurea* and *rufiflora*.



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